Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 TRSE-00 IO-10

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6824

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 19236

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: BRITISH REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON BERLIN AIR

REF: A. STATE 259030; B. BERLIN 2228

1. IN A DECEMBER 13TH CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY CAA, PAA DIRECTOR RUNNETTE ASKED WHAT THE PROSPECTS WERE FOR A JANUARY 6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PENDING FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS. EMBASSY CAA REVIEWED ONCE AGAIN PRESENT SITUATION RE UK/US CONSULTATIONS FROM WHICH RUNNETTE INFERRED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING THE NEW FARES BY EARLY JANUARY WAS DIM AT BEST, EVEN IF THE WASHINGTON MEETING SHOULD RESULT IN A DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE APPLICATIONS IN HAND. EMBASSY CAA ADDED THAT AN ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL PROBLEM EXISTED RE THE RECONCILIATION OF THE FARE CASES SINCE BA'S WAS BASED SOLELY ON INCREASED FUEL PRICES WHILE PAA'S CALCULATIONS COVERED ALL COST FACTORS. IN ANY EVENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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RUNNETTE SAID HE WOULD CONTACT PAA/US STRESSING HIS

VIEW THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MEET A JANUARY 6 IMPLEMENTATION DATE.

2. COMMENT: DIFFERING JUSTIFICATIONS FOR 7.9 FARE INCREASE COULD PRESENT A PROBLEM IN REACHING A MODUS OPERANDI WITH THE BRITISH. PAA'S CASE BASED AS IT IS ON 1975 PROJECTIONS FOR ALL COST ELEMENTS WOULD SUGGEST TO THE GERMANS THAT NO NEAR TERM ADDITIONAL FARE INCREASES WOULD BE JUSTIFIED UNLESS MARKET CONDITIONS ALTERED DRASTICALLY WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. BA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO ARGUE THAT THE 1975 FUEL BILL PLUS OTHER COST FACTORS WOULD WARRANT A GREATER FARE INCREASE (ITS CASE FOR A "FUEL SURCHARGE" IS BASED SOLELY ON UNCOVERED 1974 FUEL COSTS -- SEE BONN 19072). SINCE RUNNETTE SAID AIRLINE TALKS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 18, 19 HAD BEEN CANCELLED IT IS DOUBTFUL BA AND PAA COULD WORK OUT A RAPID COMPROMISE ON THE APPLICATIONS, A NECESSARY STEP IF WE ARE TO PRESENT THE GERMANS WITH A COMBINED JUSTI-FICATION FOR THE PRESENT FARE INCREASE. HILLENBRAND

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